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STATE INR Morning Summary

BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH - ANALYSIS: June 19, 1980

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1. IRAN: CURBSING THE CLERICS?

Ayatollah Khomeini and his family advisors may now have come to believe that clerical extremism is weakening the revolution and alienating some of its staunchest supporters, the poor and the bazaar merchants. But Khomeini's statements calling for unity are in themselves unlikely to achieve it. Unless they are followed by further directives supporting President Bani-Sadr, the political drift in Iran will continue towards an eventual consolidation of clerical power.

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In their drive to dominate Iranian society, the clerics have cut a highly visible path during the last month:

--an educational committee which will probably be dominated by the fundamentalists has been established to revamp all universities along Islamic lines;

--Ayatollah Khalkhali's anti-narcotics court has executed approximately 90 people;

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--a particularly vicious propaganda battle has been waged against Bani-Sadr.

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The increasingly bitter factionalism within the revolutionary ranks undoubtedly prompted Khomeini to warn in a speech last week that these splits could destroy the revolution. A clerical attack on a legally organized leftist rally, which occurred two days after the speech, led to Ahmad Khomeini's stinging criticism of the fundamentalists and may have also been responsible for his father's directive to the Revolutionary Guards to obey Bani-Sadr.

This situation has no doubt led the clerics to reassess their tactics. An editorial in a clerically controlled paper has called for a truce in the current wrangling with Bani-Sadr. But the clerics' basic goal, total domination of the revolution, has not changed. There is little reason to believe that the infighting will cease in the foreseeable future.

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